

gone on to hold positions, including the first vice chairman of the Republican Party of Arkansas, an appointee to the Governor's Appointments Committee, and a member of the National Committee's Women's Leadership Forum.

She served as a national committee-woman for the Republican Party of Arkansas since 2004; and as a member of the national rules committee, she is able to influence party nominations and messages.

Ms. Hamilton has been a delegate to every Republican national convention since 1992. She is also a 2012 RNC convention committee member.

Mr. Speaker, today I honor Ms. Reta Hamilton for her commitment to our commonsense, conservative ideals and thank her for her service.

VETERANS TRANSITIONING TO CIVILIAN LIFE

(Ms. HOCHUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, exactly 2 months ago, I was in Afghanistan breaking bread with our troops, and I asked them, What is your biggest worry? What keeps you awake at night? I thought it had to be the Taliban lurking in the nearby mountains. Well, it wasn't. Their biggest fear—and I heard this over and over—was the fear of coming back to this country and not finding a job.

At this point in our country, over 30 percent is the rate of unemployment for recently returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. That is absolutely unacceptable. We've taken some steps in Congress. The tax credit for employers is a good start, and I introduced the VETS bill, which will help veterans receive professional certification for the training and skills they've already acquired abroad.

I also want to recognize that the VA and DOD are recognizing that we need to do much more to help these individuals transition into civilian society. In fact, tomorrow we are having a joint hearing with the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees to address these matters.

As I told many veterans groups, we didn't get it right after Vietnam. We have to do so much more to help them reintegrate into society and help them heal their wounds. I say instead of just giving them a thank-you, let's give our veterans a job.

RED TAPE REDUCTION ACT HELPS CREATE JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since the President took office, his administration has enacted over 400 new government regulations limiting small business owners from

creating new jobs. This year alone, the Federal Register has published over 41,000 pages of regulations that would cost \$56.6 billion and result in paperwork that would take over 114 million wasted hours to complete.

With record unemployment, it is sadly clear that the President's new taxes and policies are failing American families and destroying jobs. House Republicans are focused on putting Americans back to work. As a result, we have passed over 30 job-creation bills in the past year. Sadly, these bills remain stalled by the liberal-controlled Senate.

This week, the House, led by KEVIN BRADY, will vote on the Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act and, once again, attempt to remove government red tape prohibiting America's job creators from achieving economic success in creating jobs. I hope we can work together to support this legislation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

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THINK BEFORE WE CUT

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, the whole country was struck with the tragedy in Aurora, Colorado. A deranged individual murdered 12 citizens and wounded 58 others.

My mind went back to the day that Gabrielle Giffords was shot—another deranged individual. What it says to me is we need to spend more money, not less money, on mental health issues. There are a lot of mentally disturbed people out there who need mental health treatment, and this Congress has been cutting funds for mental health and for clinics and for health care. And we need more law enforcement and more protection.

There are cuts that can be made to protect our country's fiscal health, but to protect our Nation's physical health, some funds need to be maintained. Let's think before we cut.

CONGRATULATING DR. VIRGILIO I. BEATO NUNEZ

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride, admiration, and affection that I rise to recognize Dr. Virgilio Beato Nunez, an outstanding member of the south Florida medical community, on his very well-deserved retirement.

In his 69 years of medical practice, he has improved the lives of countless individuals and has enjoyed a career of many achievements. Dr. Beato is a

great example of the patriotism and dedication that we see throughout our Nation, and also to his profession.

Forced to flee from the oppressive Communist regime of Fidel Castro, Dr. Beato began his new life and his career in Miami. He then moved to San Antonio, Texas, where in 1974 he was elected vice president of the American Heart Association. In 1977, Dr. Beato moved back to Miami, where he helped many struggling young doctors who had moved to freedom in the United States.

He has received many awards, including a proclamation by the city of Miami naming "Dr. Virgilio Beato Day," and a congressional recognition in 2006 for his many contributions to the medical field.

Congratulations to Dr. Beato on his retirement, and I wish him all the best in this new, exciting chapter in his life.

MARKETPLACE EQUITY ACT

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, retailing is an important part of the American economy. The Main Street retailers—brick-and-mortar retailers—play an essential function of providing access to stores in communities. They're the engine of downtown revitalization. E-commerce retailers are emerging as a very strong retailing force, providing convenience and low cost to consumers.

The challenge we face is having a level playing field between these two retailers. The way things stand right now, if a State assesses a sales tax, Main Street retailers have to collect it; e-retailers, more often than not, don't. That's not a level playing field for them to compete on a fair basis.

There are two bills in the House to resolve this: the Main Street Fairness Act and the Marketplace Equity Act. Both I am a cosponsor of, with bipartisan support.

Fair is fair. We're making progress on this. Just recently, the Governors from both parties attending the National Governors Association spoke in favor of the importance of updating Federal law so there will be this level playing field. And just this morning, in Chairman SMITH's House Judiciary Committee, there was a hearing on the Marketplace Equity Act.

Let's bring this to the floor for a vote. Let's pass it. Let's return fairness.

STOP THE TAX HIKE

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to those calling attention to the harmful tax hikes that could soon come our way.

With tax cuts set to expire at midnight on December 31 of this year, the